Character Traits and Dialogue Module

1. Literacy Power story: “Beautiful Junk”. This story focuses on character. Think about how a person’s character, whether it is real life, a movie, or in a book, is evident by what they do (their actions) and what they say (and how they say it). Refer to the Virtues chart on the wall, and the included character trait list when needed, because sometimes it is difficult to think of words to describe character.
   1. On the character traits handout, highlight the 10 traits that best describe yourself. Add words that are not there if you want. Do not hand this in yet, you’ll need it.
   2. Beautiful Junk- While you are reading, keep in mind the topic is Character. Do the question on the front page about personal success.
   3. P. 14 Part A- Do all. Be sure to read the little square about setting.
   4. P. 14 Part B Do all
   5. P. 16. Conventions- read the examples first.
   6. P. 23. Read the directions first. You can skip #1 if it’s crossed out, but the rest needs to be done on looseleaf, including #3.
   7. Part C. This must be done. You need to write at least 10 more lines (5 for each character). It is really important that the dialogue sounds real and reflects the boys’ character. Charlie is the one whose character is changing from aggressive to appreciative and trying to convince Simon. You will get 10 marks for the actual lines, but another 10 for whether or not they are indicative of their character.
2. Indirect Character Traits worksheet: Do all. You can use a dictionary or the internet if needed. The second part of each question has to actually be an action/behavior, not just a repetition of the definition.
3. Dialogue:
   1. Review conventions of quotation marks provided on the coloured paper.
   2. Quotation Marks Practice Exercises- worksheet. Do all of it right on the paper or on looseleaf. Be careful, it’s harder than it looks.
   3. Review words other than “said” and think about how they also show character, as it tells how a person says something.
   4. Imagine a phone call or other conversation between 2 very different people. Write a dialogue, using proper quotation conventions, AND showing their character traits. Each character has to say at least 10 lines. There should be no other action or story to this dialogue. It’s just the conversation. Some potential examples might be:
      1. A teenager trying to convince his/her mother to let him/her stay out all night
      2. A teenager trying to talk himself/herself out of a speeding ticket after being stopped by the police
      3. A grandparent trying to persuade a grandchild to eat his/her vegetables.
      4. A 911 call from a person whose house has just been broken into.
      5. A rapper called to with his dad happy birthday.
4. Work to be completed and handed in:
   1. Character trait list-highlight your character traits
   2. Beautiful Junk, including continued script of Charlie and Simon
   3. Indirect Character worksheet- 2 sides
   4. Quotation Marks practice worksheet
   5. Original phone call/dialogue using proper quotation marks and showing character, on looseleaf.